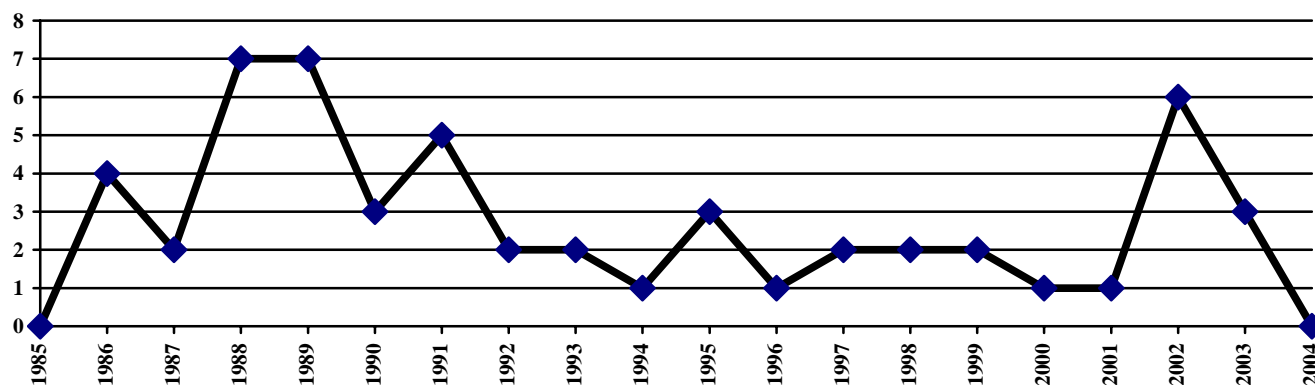


# MURDER OR NON-NEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER,

as defined in the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, is the willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another. The classification of this offense, as for all other Crime Index Offenses, is based solely on police investigation, as opposed to the determination of a court, medical examiner, coroner, jury, or other judicial body. Not included in the count for this offense classification are deaths caused by negligence, suicide, or accident; justifiable homicides; and attempts to murder or assaults with the intent to murder, which are scored as aggravated assaults.

**Twenty Year Review:  
Murder in Cambridge, 1985-2004**



\*Note that this graph represents the total number of individuals murdered in Cambridge, rather than the total number of incidents. (One incident can have multiple victims).

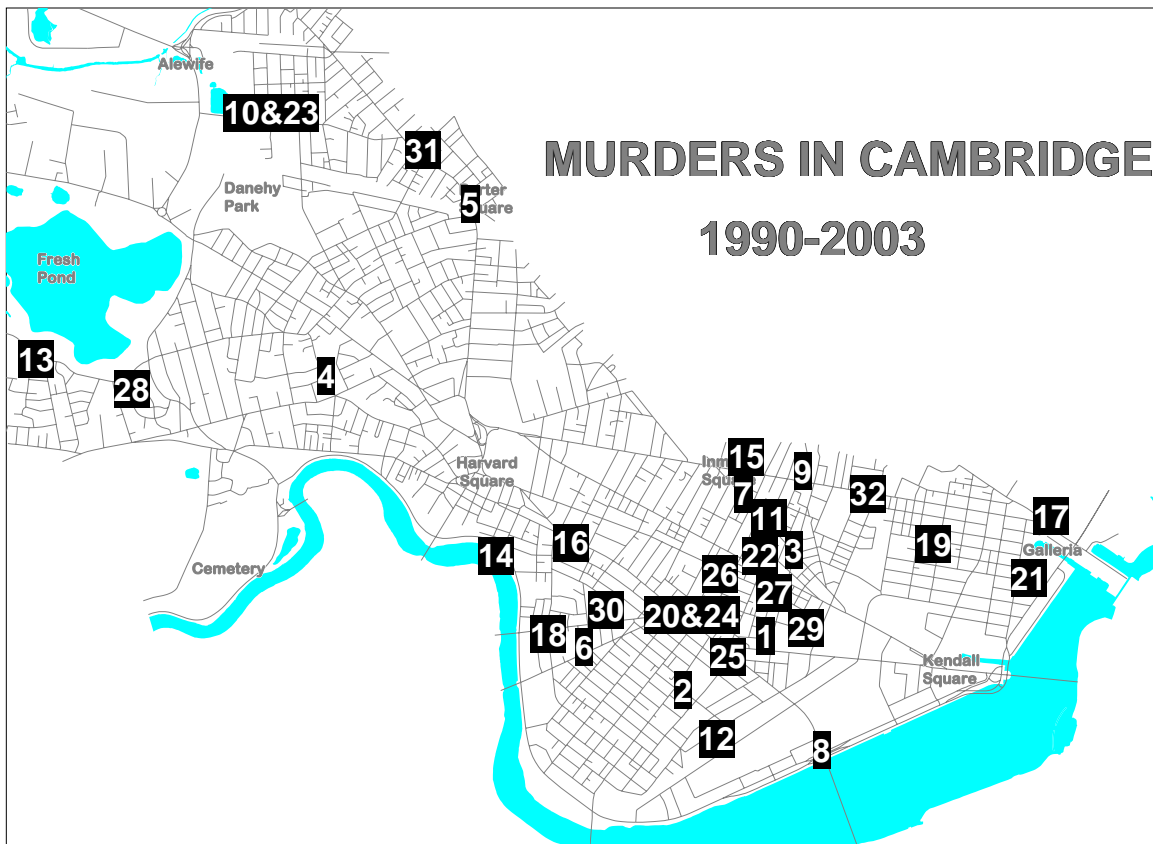
**Three reported in 2003 • 0 reported in 2004**

There were no murders in Cambridge in 2004. It has been 20 years since the last time the City reported no murders in a calendar year and it is only the second time in 45 years that no murders were recorded. Overall, 54 murders have been reported during that time, with seven being the most in a given year, occurring twice in the late 1980's. As of the publishing of this report, the last murder recorded in Cambridge was the November 2003 stabbing death of Mary Toomey by her nephew, Anthony DiBenedetto. He is still awaiting trial.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF MURDER IN CAMBRIDGE

For the 30-year period between 1960 and 1989, the City of Cambridge averaged approximately 5 murders per year. The annual average in the 1990s has fallen to approximately two per year. Nationally, cities of 100,000 residents average 10 murders each year. Trend analysis over the past few years points to three recurring murder scenarios in Cambridge: domestic murder, in which one spouse is brutally killed by the other in a homicidal rage; arguments among the homeless that, often fueled by drugs or alcohol, escalate into deadly violence; and the murder of young males by a handgun or knife in street robberies or drug deals gone awry.

Since 1990, there have been 34 murders in the city of Cambridge. These 34 murders occurred during 32 separate incidents, meaning that in two incidents two people were killed. Of the 34 homicides, 19 of the victims were male (average age of 29) and 15 were female (average age of 42). The most common weapons used in Cambridge murders since 1990 were knives (10 incidents) and handguns (6 incidents). Ten of the 34 murder cases reported since 1990 are still under investigation. The highest total of homicides in Cambridge in the past 30 years was in 1972 when 14 murders were registered. The following map shows all of the murder locations since 1990.



The map above and table below summarize the 32 incidents of murder—resulting in the deaths of 34 people—between 1990 and 2003. Eleven of these murders are incidents of gang, drug, knife and gun violence involving young men; eight are domestic and family violence killings; three are murders between homeless people; two sprang from a heated argument at a restaurant; one stemmed from a store hold-up gone awry; one involved an argument between two unrelated individuals living together; and in six cases, the motivation or cause of the murder is unknown. Ten of these incidents have not been solved and are under investigation.

Map #	Date & Time	Location	Victim(s)	Offender(s)	Story	Status
1	1/25/90 01:00	Windsor St. & School St. (Area 4)	Jessie McKie, 21 and Rigoberto Carrion, 30, of Cambridge	Ventrey Gordon, 20, and Sean Lee, 21, of Mattapan.	McKie and Carrion were walking on the street when a group of men approached them. The men tried to steal McKie's leather jacket and stabbed both victims to death.	Gordon and Lee both convicted of murder. One other man convicted of accessory to murder. A fourth man tried and acquitted.
2	4/3/90 00:00 to 06:00	100 Pacific St. (Cambridgeport)	Jacqueline W. Blenman, 39, of Cambridge	Unknown	The victim was found strangled and dumped on the street.	Unsolved
3	3/15/91 23:00	97 Hampshire St. (Inman/Harrington)	Uri Woods, 29, of Cambridge	Unknown	The victim was shot to death on the street.	Unsolved
4	4/4/91 20:58	Sparks St. & Brewster St. (West Cambridge)	Mary Joe Frug, 49, of Cambridge	A white male in his 20's in a black leather jacket	Frug was walking a few blocks from her residence when an unknown assailant stabbed her to death.	Unsolved

Map #	Date & Time	Location	Victim(s)	Offender(s)	Story	Status
5	5/7/91	Porter Square (North Cambridge)	Derrick Chance, 24, of Cambridge	Courtney Lewis, 24, of Cambridge	The victim was slashed to death with a razor during an argument in a fast food restaurant.	Lewis was convicted of manslaughter.
6	9/29/91 03:30	16 Mildred Hamilton Pl. (Riverside)	Bobbie Schley, 45, of Cambridge	Morris King, 48, of Barbados	Schley was stabbed to death in an argument with King, her boyfriend.	King was convicted of murder.
7	12/5/91 15:00	162 Hampshire St. (Area 4)	Esther Olofson, 49, of Cambridge	Unknown	Olofson was reported missing by her friends and family. Her body was later found in her bed. She had apparently been strangled.	Unsolved
8	9/19/92 20:30	Massachusetts Av. & Memorial Dr. (MIT)	Yngye Raustein, 21, an MIT student	Shon McHugh, 16; Joseph Donovan, 17; and Alfredo Velez, 18, all of Cambridge	Raustein was stabbed to death in a robbery gone sour.	All three suspects were convicted of murder
9	11/28/92 00:30	Cambridge St. & Columbia St. (Inman/Harrington)	Tyrone Phoenix, 18, of Dorchester	Shawn Carter, 21, of Cambridge	Phoenix and other youths were driving in Cambridge. When they came to a stoplight, Carter came over and tapped on the window. After being told to get away from the car, he pulled out a pistol and started shooting.	Carter was convicted of murder
10	9/22/93 21:30	324 Rindge Ave. (North Cambridge)	Michael Garner, 23, of Cambridge	Three young black males	Michael Garner was walking home when three young black males confronted him and tried to rob him of his gold chains. The robbery went astray, and Garner was shot twice and killed.	Unsolved
11	9/25/93 19:30	160 Elm St. (Inman/Harrington)	Rosalie Whalen, 54, of Cambridge	Dennis Whalen, 54, of Cambridge	Whalen bludgeoned his wife to death with a hammer.	Whalen was convicted of murder
12	3/31/94 16:00	Rear of CASPAR shelter, 240 Albany St. (Cambridgeport)	Edward Semino	Unknown	The victim was beaten to death in a fight between homeless people.	Unsolved
13	1/24/95	700 Huron Ave. (Strawberry Hill)	Claire Downing, 60, of Cambridge	Ken Downing, 62, of Cambridge	Downing beat his wheelchair-bound wife to death with a blunt object.	Downing was tried and convicted of murder
14	5/30/95 08:00	Harvard University Dunster House (Riverside)	Trang Phuong Ho, 22, Harvard student	Sinedu Tadesse, Harvard student	After Ho told Tadesse she did not want to room with her the following year, Tadesse stabbed Ho to death and then hung herself.	Tadesse committed suicide.
15	8/9/95 15:30	304 Prospect St. (Inman/Harrington)	Lilia Fagundes, 42, owner of market	Black male, 15-16 years old, with a thin build	Fagundes was shot to death in her store, possibly in a robbery gone awry	Unsolved
16	11/22/96 18:40	1033 Massachusetts Ave. (Mid-Cambridge)	Laurence Cooper, 50s, a homeless veteran	Richard Kachadorian, 50, of Cambridge	Kachadorian stabbed Cooper in the throat and chest during a street argument.	Kachadorian was tried and convicted of murder
17	3/26/97 01:25	East Street trailer yards (East Cambridge)	Helena Gardner, 19, homeless	Nicole Fernandes, 19, homeless; Randy Williams, homeless; Mark McCray, homeless	Fernandes lured Gardner, with the promise of a drink, to an abandoned trailer. Fernandes bound Gardner to a chair, whipped her with a metal rod and rose thorns, and then bludgeoned her to death with a sledgehammer before setting the trailer on fire. The two men watched.	All three suspects were convicted of murder.
18	8/19/97 20:55	Hoyt Field (Riverside)	Benny Rosa, 19, of Cambridge	Anthony Cole, 20, and Craig Joseph, 25, of Boston	Cole and Joseph encountered each other in Hoyt Field and fired on each other. Rosa was caught in the crossfire. Two others were wounded.	Cole was convicted of 1 <sup>st</sup> degree murder and Joseph was convicted of 2 <sup>nd</sup> degree murder.
19	10/16/98 10:56	157 Fifth St. (East Cambridge)	Joseph Beranger, 64, and Mary Beranger, 64, of California	John J. Hinds, 56, of Cambridge	Hinds and his half-brother, Joseph, and sister were involved in an on-going dispute over their mother and her residence. At the time of the incident, Joseph and his wife Mary were on their way to see their mother. Hinds got there first, an argument ensued, and Hinds shot his sister in the head. Then he fatally shot Joseph and Mary Beranger.	Hinds was convicted of 1 <sup>st</sup> degree murder.

Map #	Date & Time	Location	Victim(s)	Offender(s)	Story	Status
20	9/18/99 03:15	496 Massachusetts Ave. (Cambridgeport)	Colin Burton, 30, of Dorchester	2 or more black males in a Ford Explorer	Burton and two friends stopped at Hi-Fi Pizza in Central Square. A green Ford Explorer pulled up outside the restaurant. While Burton was talking with the occupants, he banged on the hood of the vehicle. The man in the passenger seat fired through the open window, striking Burton once in the chest. Burton died the following Monday.	Under active investigation
21	12/23/99 17:10	CambridgeSide Galleria parking garage (East Cambridge)	Gary M. Chatelain, 20, of Roslindale	Jose N. Correia, 20, of Roxbury	Chatelain and Correia, known to each other, were part of two groups involved in a fight in the garage. Correia shot Chatelain in the chest.	Correia was convicted of manslaughter.
22	7/6/2000 02:06	101 Hampshire St. (Inman/ Harrington)	Jeffrey Williams, 33, of Cambridge	Frederick J. Howard, 22, of Cambridge	Police responded to a call that someone had been shot in the leg at 101 Hampshire St. Once on scene Williams was found shot in the chest and died later at Mass General Hospital. A suspect identified as Howard was seen running away from the scene. The victim had called a friend stating that the man and woman he was out with were arguing and that he had escorted the woman back to her residence.	Pled guilty to voluntary manslaughter.
23	1/7/2001 14:30	Jefferson Park (North Cambridge)	11-month old female	John Forbes, 30, of Roxbury	Cambridge police and fire units responded to an apartment in Jefferson Park. When officers arrived, they found an eleven-month-old baby lying on the bed unresponsive and not breathing. The baby was transported to the hospital, but later died. The baby's father, John Forbes of Roxbury stated that the baby had choked on an orange peel. The medical examiner determined that the infant had died from massive trauma to her head, consistent with "shaken baby" syndrome.	Forbes was convicted of 2 <sup>nd</sup> degree murder.
24	2/11/2002 14:30	522 Massachusetts Ave. (Cambridgeport)	Azedine Lachhab, 42, of East Boston	Jason Girouard, 32, of Waltham	Lachhab died after 11 days in the hospital from severe head trauma that resulted from a fight at the Hi-Fi in Central Square.	Girouard was found not guilty at trial.
25	4/5/2002	315 Massachusetts Ave. (Area 4)	Ian Gray, 19, of Mattapan	Black male	An argument that transpired inside the Rhythm & Spice restaurant spilled out onto Mass Ave. One person left the scene of the argument and then returned with 7-8 more people when a fight ensued. A knife was produced during the fight, and four gunshots were fired, fatally wounding Gray.	Under Active Investigation
26	4/17/2002	16 Worcester St. (Area 4)	Desiree Saunders, 36, of Cambridge	Scott Saunders, 37, of Cambridge	Police arrived to the scene to find the victim lying on her back in her bed with gunshot wounds. Her assailant and husband was found at the foot of the bed with one gunshot wound to his head after he had committed suicide.	Scott Saunders committed suicide.
27	6/17/2002	167 Windsor St. (Area 4)	Ricardo Williams, 27, of Malden	Unknown	Police responded to possible gunshots to find Williams in the driver's seat of a 2002 Infiniti with gunshot wounds to the left side of his face. Williams was taken to Cambridge City Hospital where he was pronounced dead.	Under Active Investigation
28	6/18/2002	Aberdeen Ave. & Huron Ave. (Strawberry Hill)	Sean A. Howard, 19, of Dorchester	Andrew Power-Koch, 20, of Cambridge	Power-Koch confessed to accidentally shooting his best friend, Howard, in the chest at the railroad track area of Aberdeen Ave.	Power-Koch was found guilty of manslaughter.
29	10/21/2002	29 Newtowne Ct. (Area 4)	Gregory Robinson of Boston	Anthony Jakes, 23, of Milton	Robinson and Jakes got into an altercation in front of the victim's apartment. Jakes then stabbed Robinson and fled. Jakes later turned himself into police custody. Robinson was taken to Mass General Hospital where he died the following day.	Jakes was found not guilty at trial.
30	4/12/2003	Western Ave. & Jay St. (Riverside)	Michael Colono, 18, of Cambridge	Alexander Pring-Wilson, 25, of Cambridge	Colono and Pring-Wilson were outside of the Pizza Ring when they got into a verbal altercation. The altercation escalated and Pring-Wilson stabbed Colono to death.	Pring-Wilson pled self defense but was found guilty at trial.

Map #	Date & Time	Location	Victim(s)	Offender(s)	Story	Status
31	6/8/2003	2067 Mass. Ave. (North Cambridge)	Robert Scott, 26, of Cambridge	Markendy Jean, 26, of Malden	Scott was waiting for the bus with his girlfriend when Jean started shooting at him. Scott ran into the parking lot of the Kentucky Fried Chicken while Jean continued to shoot, striking him and killing him on scene. Jean fled to Florida but later turned himself in to authorities.	Awaiting Trial
32	11/24/2003	124 Berkshire St. (Inman/Harrington)	Mary Toomey, 75, of Cambridge	Anthony DiBenedetto, 47, of Cambridge	DiBenedetto had been living with Toomey for about seven years when they got into an argument and DiBenedetto stabbed Toomey in the neck. Toomey fell to the ground and DiBenedetto then stabbed her in the back two times and put her body in a duffle bag. Police later found the duffle bag in Toomey's apartment and arrested DiBenedetto.	Awaiting Trial

### **MURDER ACROSS THE STATE & NATION IN 2003\***

In 2003, the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports reported an estimated 16,503 murders nationwide, representing an increase of 1.7% from the 16,229 homicides recorded in 2002. When population is taken into account, the murder rate increased 0.7% over the previous year.

Across the nation, murder victims are 34% female and 77% male. By comparison, Cambridge has a higher percentage of female murder victims (probably because of our relatively low number of gang-related homicides, in which the victims are usually male). The average male murder victim nationwide is in his mid-20s and the average female murder victim is either in her early 20s or late 30s. Male murder victims in Cambridge are usually in their mid-20s, consistent with the national trend; however female victims are usually close to 40 years old.

The murder rate in Massachusetts is far below that for the nation as a whole. Massachusetts reported 2.2 murders per 100,000 residents, while the national rate is 5.7 per 100,000. Boston experiences the majority of the state's homicides, as it did in 2003 with 39 homicides, down 35% from 2002. Of the towns surrounding Cambridge (Watertown, Belmont, Arlington, Somerville, and Brookline) only Brookline reported any homicides (1) in 2003 (note that Watertown crime figures were unavailable in 2003.)

*\*Statistics for 2004 are not yet available for other cities and towns.*